

Applicant: Trinh et al.
Serial No.: 10/632,415
Group Art Unit: 2873

PATENT
Docket No.: 10-9404

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9, 14, 16, and 18 as set forth below.

Please cancel claims 6, 12, and 17.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dip coating optical elements comprising: dipping an optical element into a coating solution bath; withdrawing the optical element from the coating solution bath; [and] creating a meniscus between the optical element and the coating solution bath when the optical element is otherwise located above said coating solution bath; holding the optical element above the coating solution bath for at least 10 seconds while maintaining the meniscus so as to allow capillary forces to wick off a desired amount of the coating solution from the optical element.
2. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the meniscus is created when the distance between the coating solution bath and the optical element is approximately 2 millimeters.
3. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the viscosity of the coating solution is between 1 cPs and 20 cPs.
4. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the temperature of the coating solution is between 30° Fahrenheit and 90° Fahrenheit.
5. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 wherein the step of withdrawing the optical element from the coating solution proceeds at a speed between approximately 1.5 and 3 inches per second.
6. Canceled.

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7. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 further comprising curing the coating solution.
8. (Original) The method of dip coating optical elements of claim 1 further comprising washing the optical element prior to dipping.
9. (Currently amended) A method of coating an eye element comprising: introducing the eye element into a coating solution; initiating a separation of the eye element from the coating solution; maintaining a touching of a bottom portion of the eye element with the coating solution for a predetermined period of time, no less than 10 seconds, sufficient to effect a wicking of excess solution from the element; and terminating the touching after the predetermined period.
10. (Original) The method of coating an eye lens of claim 9 wherein the touching of a bottom portion of the eye element with the coating solution creates a meniscus.
11. (Original) The method of coating an eye lens of claim 9 wherein the viscosity of the coating solution is between 1 cPs and 20 cPs.
12. Canceled.
13. (Original) The method of coating an eye lens of claim 9 further comprising curing the coating solution.
14. (Currently Amended) An eye lens comprising: a lens substrate; and a coating on the lens substrate, the coating having been applied with a dip coating method; and the lens substrate with the coating being free of a visually observable light wedge due to said coating solution being wicked from an edge of said lens substrate for at least 10 seconds, through a meniscus created between said coating solution and said edge of said lens substrate at the conclusion of said dip coating method.
15. (Original) The eye lens of claim 14 wherein the dip coating method comprises:

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dipping an optical element into a coating;

withdrawing the optical element from the coating solution; and

creating a meniscus between the optical element and the coating solution so as to allow capillary forces to wick off a desired amount of the coating solution from the optical lens.

16. (Currently amended) An eye lens comprising: a lens substrate;

[and] a coating on the substrate, the coating having been applied by dip coating so as to allow such that capillary forces have wicked off a desired amount of said coating from the eye lens in a period of at least 10 seconds;

and, the lens substrate with the coating having a visible light transmission differential from a top to a bottom of the lens substrate of approximately 1.5%.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of dip coating optical elements comprising:

dipping an optical element into a coating solution bath so that the entire element is below a surface of the bath;

elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath except for the formation of a meniscus between said bath and said optical element;

holding the element [at the desired elevation] above the surface of the bath while maintaining the meniscus for a predetermined period of time no less than 10 seconds [sufficient] so as to effect wicking of excess solution from the element to the bath through the meniscus;

removing the optical element from the bath thereby breaking the meniscus.

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19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath comprises raising the optical element above the surface of the bath.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath comprises lowering the bath below the optical element.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein elevating the optical element above the surface of the bath comprises draining the bath, thereby lowering the surface of the bath.